

## **ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors**

### **English/Language Arts – Grade 3**

#### **Grade 3**

##### **Pass+**

*Pass+* students demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including stories and informational texts. Students display advanced writing skills when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels. *Pass+* students craft well-organized, clearly focused, and detailed narrative and descriptive compositions, as well as simple letters for appropriate audiences, using interesting word choices and appropriate standard English conventions.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Pass +* level include:

- Recall major points and revise predictions about what is read
- Describe what characters are like
- Determine theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text
- Write to persuade a specific audience to do something
- Write focused paragraphs and compositions containing several ideas and interesting word choices
- Form simple and complex sentences with grade-level appropriate capitalization and punctuation

#### **Grade 3**

##### **Pass**

*Pass* students demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including stories and informational texts. Students display satisfactory writing skills when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels. *Pass* students construct brief narrative, persuasive, and descriptive compositions and simple letters, using appropriate standard English conventions.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Identify main idea and supporting details in text
- Identify and distinguish basic text elements (problem and solution, cause and effect, fact and opinion)
- Use prior knowledge and information from the text to understand basic story plots
- Use sentence clues to find meanings of unknown words
- Write paragraphs with topic sentences
- Write stories that tell, persuade, and/or describe someone or something

#### **Grade 3**

##### **Did Not Pass**

Did Not Pass students demonstrate limited understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including stories and informational texts. Students display limited writing skills when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels. *Did Not Pass* students create brief narrative and descriptive compositions and simple letters, striving to use appropriate standard English conventions.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 3 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Know and use common word families
- Read words with several syllables
- Find answers in text
- Follow multi-step directions
- Arrange words in alphabetical order
- Use a dictionary to find the meaning of unknown words
- Write simple sentences